THE NEW PLAYS

"The Boomerang" a Mildly Amusing Comedy of Youth.

BY CHARLES DARNTON.

Theatre last night with all the enthusiasm of youth. say that this is the least important of the many notable productions Mr. Belasco has made doesn't mean that "The Boomerang" failed to his

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AVID BELASCO never takes a vacation, so by way of midsummer laxation, perhaps, he threw "The Boomerang" into the Belasco

> proved a mildly amusing comedy of youth. Now youth, as you may know, is valued highly in the theatre, especially when the particular affair in rate "The Boomerang" is an enterhand is not to be taken seriously. In this instance Winchell Smith and Victor Mapes put their heads together, and with beating hearts, perchance, did their best to give love's young dream a new twist. As in "The Fortune Hunter" of pleasant box-office memory, Mr. Smith took youth at its magazine value, while

it is a pleasant, inconsequential comedy that turns on some of the more obvious phases of the love game. While there is neither a big idea nor big emotion in "The Boomerang." achieves a succession of minor efects amusing in themselves.

To make a short story longer than it really ought to be, a newly established doctor treats a love-sick youth in the hope of ridding him of the jealousy "bug," and by prescribing a pretty nurse who gives the patient nothing stronger than injections of pure water works a "cure." Meanwhile the doctor develops certain unmistakable symptoms because of daily association with the charming nurse, and, like his patient, becomes jealous of a harmless young man who makes the best of his opportunities. The idea of having a modern physician attempt to cure the oldest dis-

ease under the sun is clever in itself. and the doctor's office, with all the latest improvements, adds to the amusement of the simple affair. To have a doctor without a practice acquire a patient without a disease is, of course, a genuinely comic idea, and the authors make the most of it. But the audience, it must be con-fessed, is kept on the waiting list for the greater part of the time. As a result the play drags somewhat un-til the middle of the second act, when the unsuspecting doctor and the attractive nurse have a very good "bit"

in the way of a supper scene.

Up to this moment it seems only natural that the nurse should lose her heart to the young man whose arm she tenderly rubs after performing her needlework. The chief fault to be found with the play is that interest centres in no one particularly. A love-sick youth brought to a doctor by his doting mother is not of necessity a sympathetic. sympathetic character, especially when he talks of candles at his birth

day party. A girl in the same situa-tion might be accepted, but a young man-never! Fortunately, Wallace Eddinger, by instinctive fear of the doctor once he instinctive fear of the doctor once he was in the operating chair, and a feverish deare to return to his lady-love the moment he was out of it, managed to keep the audience amused. He was intensely serious about it all, and he put a great deal of originality into the role for two acts. Then he betrayed his recent training in the George M. Cohan school of acting. There was some excuse for this, however, for the third act took a new pace in the direction of farce.

Arthur Byron was capital as the doctor. He brought vitality, naturalness and ease to his role and added several good comedy touches. As the nurse Miss Martha Hedman revealed hithesto unsuspected talent as a

the mark at which it was aimed. hitherto unsuspected talent as a comedienne. Her quiet sense of Thanks largely to a clever cast, it humor made an appeal second only

taining and cleveriy acted comedy

while Mr. Mapes possibly concerned himself with that touch of color commonly described as green-eyed jeal-ousy.

The play is indeed clearly intended to appeal to the younger element, for the play is indeed clearly intended to appeal to the younger element, for the play is indeed clearly intended to appeal to the younger element, for the younger element, for the play is indeed clearly intended to appeal to the younger element, for the younger element elemen this with one pint of warm water. Put two drops in the affected car every night. Put one tablespoonful in a fourth of glass of warm water and gargle throat and souff up nose night and morning. Keep this up for a few weeks and test your hearing and you will be pleased to note the improvement. You will also, no doubt, discover that your catarrh has disappeared, and head noises gone.-Advt.

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